(Lakh hectares)

Crop/Year	2005-06	2004-05
Rice	143.55	169.78
Coarse Cereal	144.51	139.00
Pulses	57.15	68.09

However, the sowing operation have acclerated with steady arrival of monsoon and it is expected that the area under crops will improve in the coming weeks. At this juncture no shortage of foodgrains and losses to the farmers is anticipated for 2005-06.

(d) To increase the production and productivity of different cereal crops, various schemes like Integrated Crop Development Programme (ICDP) for Coarse Cereals, Wheat and Rice had been implemented, which have since been subsumed under Macro Management Programme.

In order to increase the production and productivty of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Intregated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for production of breeder seed, foundation seed, and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development, integrated Pest Managment etc.

Keeping in view the importance of agriculture, the Union Budget 2005-06 has provided substantial outlays in key areas like irrigation, including micro irrigation, horticulture and marketing. The Budget has also proposed to increase the disbursment of credit to farmers by 30 per cent in 2005-06 over the disbursment of Rs. 1,15,243 crore in 2004-05.

Scheme for development of sugarcane

494. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing any scheme for development of sugarcane and to increase its productivity;

(b) if so, the sailent features thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Tamil Nadu during each of the test three years for the implementation of the scheme and the results achieved as a result thereof, so far; and

(d) the future targets fixed for the State and the steps proposed to be taken by the Central Government to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS) under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture in sugarcane growing states for increasing production and productivity of sugarcane in the country. Under the scheme assistance is provided for transfer of improved technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers, supply of farm implements, enhancing seed production, pest control measures, etc. Besides, frontline demonstrations are also organized through Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) on farmers fields to popularize improved sugarcane cultivation technology amongst the farmers. On research front, the ICAR is supporting Ail India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane (AICRP sugarcane) for generating technologies for increasing sugarcane production and productivity.

(c) The amount allocated to Tamil Nadu for implementation of SUBAGS and All India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane (AICRP sugarcane) are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	SUBACS	AICRP sugarcane
2002-03	35.37	8.60 8.60
2003-04	8.50	11.90
2004-05	5.50	

The sugarcane area, production and yield obtained in Tamil Nadu during last three years are given below:-

year	Area(lakh Ha.)	Production (lakh MT)	Yield(Quintals/Ha.)
2002-03	2.61	241.6	924.5
2003-04	1.85	197.1	1063.8
2004-05*	2.32	234.0	1008.6

*Provisional

Further, under All India Coordinated Research Project on sugarcane, the participating centres of Tamil Nadu contributed in development of sugarcane varieties such as Co85004,Co94008, Co87025, Co87044, Co8371, Co91010 and 8.6249.

(d) The Tamil Nadu Government has fixed target of 3.0 lakh hectare under sugarcane for the year 2005-06 to achieve production target of 364.1 lakh MT.The Cental Government regularly monitor the crop prospect and give advise to State Government for appropriate action as per need.

Advisory for cost-effective farm practices

495. SHRI BAHGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued an advisory to farmers to save available soil moisture and use cost-effective farm practices for the Kharif sowing season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to grant assistance to farmers for cost-effective farm equipments in the light of shortfall of rain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as under:

1. Adopt ridge & furrow method of sowing for better moisture utilization and to avoid water logging,
2. Adopt rain water harvesting through farm ponds and apply life saving irrigation in the event of long gap in rains,
3. Use mulching to reduce soil moisture loss, and

A. Adopt micro-irrigation system in dry land areas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals from the State Governments to grant assistance to farmers for cost effective farm equipment are considered on the basis of their Work Plans under Macro Management Scheme.